



March 24, 2009

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister

Current NATO strategy states that nuclear weapons are "essential to preserve peace" and are "an essential political and military link between the European and North American members of the Alliance." (NATO Summit: A Chance to Kick the Nuclear Habit. Ernie Regehr, EMBASSY Newsletter Feb 18, 2009)

The continued reliance of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on nuclear weapons contradicts the obligations that Canada and all NATO member states have undertaken, as signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), to pursue nuclear disarmament in good faith. As a consequence of this fact and others, Canadian Unitarian Universalist congregations, through a peace resolution, and in keeping with our sixth and seventh principles (the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part) have directed the CUC to urge the Government of Canada to advocate within NATO, the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD) and the UN (1) the reduction of the immediate danger posed by nuclear weapons and (2) urgent action on concrete steps for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The Canadian Unitarian Council therefore urges the Government of Canada to use the 60th anniversary NATO summit in April as an opportunity to fashion a new strategic doctrine that works to reduce the legitimacy and value of nuclear weapons as a part of NATO policy, to achieve the immediate removal of all nuclear weapons from the territories of non-nuclear weapon state parties to the NPT and to move us towards the goal of reduction and eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons.

Yours sincerely,

Jean Pfleiderer  
President, Canadian Unitarian Council

cc: Michael Ignatieff, House of Commons, Ottawa ON K1A 0A2  
Jack Layton, House of Commons, Ottawa ON K1A 0A2  
Gilles Duceppe, House of Commons, Ottawa ON K1A 0A2  
Bruce Knotts, Executive Director, UU-UNO  
Bob Stevenson, CUSJ

